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'Man in Shadows' Spotlited

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During the recent controversy over the defection to the Soviet zone of Dr. Otto John, the name of former Lt. Gen. Reinhard Gehlen has cropped up constantly in almost every discussion.

He is either represented as the great opponent of Dr. John indirectly responsible for exposing the former President of the Office for the Protection of the Federal Constitution, or as his possible successor in that office.

Herr Gehlen's name has been

in the shadows for a long time. He has been the subject of fantastic rumors and legends. These have gained greater credulity than would ordinarily be the case with the head of a secret service organization because of the abnormal conditions existing here since 1945, and also because so very little has been known about him.

Virtual 'Unknown'

Until recently few people, Germans or others, had any idea as to what Herr Gehlen looked like—so much so that a Swiss illustrated magazine went so far as to offer 500 Swiss francs (\$120 approximate), for a picture of him. A little later—but not in answer to this advertisement—a picture was dug out of the archives. It showed Herr Gehlen as a colonel in the former Wehrmacht. This must have been about 10 years old, since he already had risen to much higher rank before the end of World War II.

The chief of a secret service organization naturally does not court publicity about either his person or his activities. But this much is known about Herr Gehlen. The son of a Prussian officer, he himself became an artillery officer in the Reichswehr. As a young lieutenant he was stationed with his regiment at Schweidnitz, which is now in the territory incorporated de facto in Poland.

In his early army days he distinguished himself as a horseman and an all-round sportsman and was very popular among his fellow officers. He was early recognized by his superiors as having more than ordinary ability, and when the reconstruction of the Wehrmacht was carried out later, Herr Gehlen became a captain in the Ministry of War.

Skilled Secret Agent

During World War II, he was for a short time the commander of his old regiment. But his real career began when in April, 1942, he became a member of the General Staff responsible for the "foreign armies—East."

It was his task to deal with military secrets and espionage and counterespionage in Eastern Europe, especially in the Soviet Union. Such a job required the weaving of a network of agents and careful and patient activity in many spheres.

His reputation for reliability and expert knowledge of his subject was well known to those who counted. And when the United States forces came into Germany and were looking for someone to assist them in their counterespionage work, they naturally turned to Herr Gehlen—especially since he had an organization more or less still intact to bring with him.

Today, this former lieutenant general of the German Army presides over the "Organization Gehlen"—as it is known to most Germans. Its headquarters are in a closely guarded area at Puchtal, near Munich, in Bavaria.

Heavy Cost Reported

There are many contradictory reports about the financial aid it receives from United States sources. The Communist press behind the Iron Curtain mentions a sum of \$3,500,000 a year, while here in Bonn the rumors run to 25,000,000 marks, or nearly twice that amount. Since there is no way of getting to any approximately accurate figure on this matter, it must suffice to say that an organization which has 3,000 political and 1,000 military personnel must require a lot of money to carry out its investigations.

Herr Gehlen is in appearance nothing like the film version of a secret agent. He looks like a Prussian officer, but would pass for a successful businessman rather than a controller of espionage and such activities.

In connection with the John case, there have been many press statements to the effect that the Gehlen organization had long superseded the Office for the Protection of the Constitution, in the favors of the federal government. Further, that there were and still are some very prominent officials in

close contact with Chancellor Konrad Adenauer who would like to see Herr Gehlen in charge of what was once Dr. John's job.

Coordination Sought

On the other hand, Herr Gehlen has been concerned specifically with military espionage, and is said to have no desire to be connected with other aspects which would concern civilian matters.

In any case, when this whole affair of Dr. John and his successor is discussed in the federal Parliament, it generally is hoped there will be some clarification of a situation in which there are so many different counter-espionage organizations here in the federal republic, and that some coordination can be achieved both in the interests of more reliable information and of economy. The achievement of a larger measure of sovereignty by the federal republic doubtless will react on this problem.

N.Y. Times

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Spy a Suicide in Berlin

BERLIN, Sept. 5 (UP)—The West Berlin police reported today that a Western agent suspected of being in the pay of the Communists had killed himself with poison in his Moabit prison cell yesterday. He was identified as Rolf Middelborg, 32. He was arrested Friday on suspicion of being a double agent and of giving the West German Government false information about Soviet zone production.

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